

Carleton University
Winter 2021
Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies

WGST 2801: *Activism, Feminism, and Social Justice*

Location: *Courses will be delivered ONLINE for the Winter 2021 term*
This course will be asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Kmiec
Email: patricia.kmiec@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Virtual office hours on cuLearn are held Tuesday 1pm to 3pm. I am also available by appointment during regular working/weekday hours. You can request an online (text) chat or a video call. We may schedule drop-in group office hours over the term if there is demand.

- *This outline is preliminary and subject to change*

Course Description:

This course critically examines the various ways feminists have pursued and continue to effect social, political, economic, and cultural change. This course has a heavy 'practice' component whereby students will engage in different aspects of feminist/social justice activism. We will consider activism and its' intersections with a variety of different mediums including art, environment, land and settler colonialism.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Examine and evaluate diverse theoretical perspectives related to resistance and activism.
- Analyze key issues related to activism through historical and contemporary case studies.
- Identify and critically consider contemporary issues connected to activism and organizing around feminist and social justice issues
- Reflect critically on their personal connections to social engagement, organizing, and resistance on-campus and in the community

REQUIRED TEXT The following book is required for all students. Physical copies are available for purchase at *Octopus Books*. Digital versions can be purchased from various online retailers.

1. N. Loreto. (2020) *Take Back the Fight: Organizing Feminism in the Digital Age*. Fernwood Press.

Additional course readings, and other course material, will be available through our course cuLearn site and/or online through the library catalogue. Links to these are provided on cuLearn. The material required for this course includes: scholarly articles and book chapters; online videos on various platforms; online articles on public websites; open-access online textbooks; and full-length films.

Note: Most of the online material requires students to log-in through the Carleton library portal.

It is each student's responsibility to make sure they have access to the technology required to complete all the required readings and viewings.

EVALUATION	Weight	Deadline
1. Independent Work (40%)		
Proposal	10%	January 31
Activism Campaign Assignment	30%	April 4
2. Discussion and Participation (30%)		
Discussion Forum: Weekly Discussion	10%	Twice over term (see below)
Discussion: <i>A Global Perspective</i>	10%	April 14 (ongoing participation)
Discussion: <i>A Canadian Perspective</i>	10%	April 14 (ongoing participation)
3. Take-home Exam (30%)		
Take-home examination	30%	April 27

Discussion Forums: (30%) Ongoing over term. Final deadline April 14.

This course has 3 ongoing discussion forums. Within each of these forums there are various topics shared each week. Students can choose which topics/threads to participate in. Over the entire course students are expected to meet the minimum requirements listed below. Details are posted on cuLearn.

Weekly Discussions Forum: Students need to contribute to at least two discussions over the term. One comment needs to be posted by the mid-term point (Feb 14)

A Global Perspective Forum: Students need to contribute at least one original post *and* at least one comment to a classmate's post, over the term.

A Canadian Perspective Forum: Students need to contribute at least one original post *and* at least one comment to a classmate's post, over the term.

Proposal: Major Assignment (10%) January 31

Students will provide a written (1 page) or short video "check-in" to demonstrate they have chosen an appropriate topic for their final assignment. Details are posted on cuLearn.

Activism Campaign Assignment: (30%) April 11

The objective of this assignment is to provide students a chance to contribute to a campaign, cause, or social movement they care about. This assignment allows students to choose a cause or campaign they are interested in, analyze the current activism in this area, and contribute to the cause or campaign through their own work. There are many possible topics and approaches to this assignment, so it is important to read the full detailed instructions (on cuLearn) and keep in touch with the professor and TAs if you have any questions along the way. This assignment can be completed independently or in pairs.

Take-Home Exam: 30%, April 27

Students will complete a take-home exam to demonstrate the knowledge and skills gained in this course. Details are posted on cuLearn.

	TOPIC/MODULE	DATES
Unit 1	Introduction to Course and Introduction to Feminist Activism	January 11- January 17
Unit 1 Requirements		
<p><u>Required Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 1.1 <i>Welcome!</i> ⇒ Reading: Course Outline ⇒ Video 1.2: <i>Course Outline</i> ⇒ Video 1.3 Lecture Unit 1: <i>Introduction</i> ⇒ Reading 1.1: McCammon et al. “The Long History of Women’s Social Movement Activism in the United States.” ⇒ Reading 1.2: <i>Take Back the Fight:</i> Preface; Introduction; Chapter 7. ⇒ Video 1.4 : Film: <i>She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry</i> <p><u>Participation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Discussion: <i>Welcome and Introductions</i> ⇒ Discussion: <i>Weekly Discussion</i> 		

Unit 2	Theory and History	January 18 – January 31
Unit 2 Requirements:		
<p><u>Key Themes and Topics for Unit 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Three wave of feminist activism? ⇒ Intersectionality ⇒ Continuity, connections, and change in social movements ⇒ Neoliberalism <p><u>Required Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 2.1: Lecture 2 ⇒ Reading 2.1: B. Roth. “Intersectionality: Origins, Travels, Questions, and Contributions” ⇒ Reading 2.2: <i>Take Back the Fight:</i> Chapters 1 and 2 ⇒ Reading 2.3 J. Reger. “Contemporary Feminism and Beyond” ⇒ Video 2.2: Film: <i>Status Quo: The Unfinished Business of Feminism</i> <p><u>Participation and Marked Work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ ASSIGNMENT DUE: Proposal! Due: Feb 14 ⇒ Discussion: <i>Weekly Discussion</i> (comments and discussion) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Global Perspective</i> (ongoing) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Canadian Perspective</i> (ongoing) <p><u>Additional Resources (Recommended/Suggested):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Film: <i>Made in Dagenham</i> ⇒ Reading: C.M. McConaughy. “Layers of Activism: Women’s Movements and Women in Movements Approaching the Twentieth Century” 		

Unit 3	Issues that Mobilize	Feb 1-14
Unit 3 Requirements:		
<p><u>Key Themes and Topics for Unit 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Timing and activism ⇒ Key causes in feminist activism ⇒ Transnational issues and activism <p><u>Required Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 3.1: Lecture 3 ⇒ Reading 3.1: <i>Take Back the Fight</i>: Chapters 3 and 5 ⇒ Reading 3.2: S. Staggenborg et al. “Battles over Abortion and Reproductive Rights: Movement Mobilization and Strategies” ⇒ Reading 3.3: G. Arnold. “U.S. Women’s Movements to End Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Rape” ⇒ Podcast: 3.1: Original Podcast: LGBTQ Rights in the Arab-Canadian and Transnational Context ⇒ Interactive Activity: Carleton Art Gallery Exhibit: <i>To Be Continued: Troubling the Queer Archive</i> <p><u>Participation and Marked Work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Discussion: <i>Weekly Discussion</i> (comments and discussion) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Global Perspective</i> (ongoing) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Canadian Perspective</i> (ongoing) <p><u>Additional Resources (Recommended/Suggested):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Reading 3.4: T.D. Truong. “Human Trafficking, Globalization, and Transnational Feminist Responses.” 		

READING WEEK: NO CLASSES!

Unit 4	Strategizing, Organizing and Mobilizing	Feb 22-March 7
Unit 4 Requirements:		
<p><u>Key Themes for Unit 4:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Movement Organizations • Mobilization and Education • Strategies of activism • Digital and online activism <p><u>Required Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 4.1: Lecture 4 ⇒ Reading 4.1: <i>Take Back the Fight</i>: Chapters 4 and 6 ⇒ Reading 4.2: A.N Costain and W. D. Costain. “Protest Events and Direct Action” ⇒ Reading 4.3: N. Whittier. “Identity Politics, Consciousness-Raising and Visibility Politics.” ⇒ Reading 4.4: H. M. Hurwitz. “From Ink to Web and Beyond: U.S. Women’s Activism Using Traditional and Social Media.” ⇒ Podcast: 4.1: Original Podcast: Activism and Organizing in Arab-Canadian Organizations ⇒ Video 4.2: Film: <i>Knock Down the House</i> <p><u>Participation and Marked Work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Discussion: <i>Weekly Discussion</i> (comments and discussion) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Global Perspective</i> (ongoing) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Canadian Perspective</i> (ongoing) <p><u>Additional Resources (Recommended/Suggested):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Film: <i>Live Nude Girls Unite</i> ⇒ Film: <i>Angry Inuk</i> 		

Unit 5	Spaces, Settings, and Forums of Activism	March 8- March 21
Unit 5 Requirements:		
<p><u>Key Themes for Unit 5:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Activism • Leadership • Student Activism • Institutions and Education <p><u>Required Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 5.1: Lecture 5 ⇒ Reading 5.1: <i>Take Back the Fight:</i> Chapters 8 and 9 ⇒ Reading 5.2: N. Van Dyke. “Movement Emergence and Resources Mobilization: Organizations, Leaders and Coalition Work” ⇒ Reading 5.3: P. A. Kurian et al. “The Dialectics of Power and Powerlessness in Transnational Feminist Networks.” ⇒ Podcast 5.1: _Original Podcast: Film, Film-making and Activism in the Arab-Canadian Community <p><u>Participation and Marked Work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Discussion: <i>Weekly Discussion</i> (comments and discussion) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Global Perspective</i> (ongoing) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Canadian Perspective</i> (ongoing) <p><u>Additional Resources (Recommended/Suggested)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Reading: M. Shanthy Dairiam. “CEDAW, Gender, and Culture.” ⇒ Film: <i>Sabah</i> 		

Unit 6	Collaborations and Connections	March 22 – April 4
Unit 6 Requirements:		
<p><u>Key Themes for Unit 6:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s activism beyond feminism • Solidarity and collaboration • Student Activism • Transnational approaches to activism <p><u>Required Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 6.1: Lecture 6 ⇒ Reading 6.1: <i>Take Back the Fight:</i> Chapter 10 and Afterword ⇒ Reading 6.2: S. Hendricks and K. Bachan. “The Emergence of Girls in Development” ⇒ Podcast 6.1: Original Podcast: Transnational Activism <p><u>Participation and Marked Work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ ASSIGNMENT DUE: Activism Campaign DUE April 4 ⇒ Discussion: <i>Weekly Discussion</i> (comments and discussion) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Global Perspective</i> (ongoing) ⇒ Discussion: <i>A Canadian Perspective</i> (ongoing) <p><u>Additional Resources (Recommend/Suggested)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Film: <i>Crip Camp</i> 		
Unit 7	Course Wrap-up!	April 5-April 14
Unit 7 Requirements:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Video 7.1: Lecture 7 ⇒ Discussion: <i>All Discussions Due April 14!</i> 		
Take-Home Exam: Due April 27		

Policies for Course Work:

- All course work will be submitted on cuLearn. Any late submissions must be emailed to the professor/TA *in addition to* the cuLearn submission.
- All formatting information and expectations are included on the specific assignment instructions.
- Deadlines are 11:59pm on the due date. Please do your best to submit early as there are often unexpected outages with cuLearn.
- Late submissions will lose 5% per day- unless permission is given for an extended deadline. **Given the current situation, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need an extended deadline for any reason on course work submitted during the regular term.** (*note: we cannot give any extensions on the final exam deadline).
- The professor and TAs are here to help and support you through this course! This is a very large class with a diverse range of students at various levels and areas of study. If you have any trouble keeping-up or understanding the material or assignments, please reach out.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/> for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Read more about academic integrity here:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>